Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Soundings

Vol. 27, Issue 10 November 2011

Congratulations Leymah Gbowee!

Just two days before learning that she was a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Leymah Gbowee was speaking to a captivated audience at Queen Anne Lutheran, Seattle.

Gbowee, a member of the Lutheran Church in Liberia, is responsible for organizing a non-violent women's movement that brought an end to a 14-year civil war in Liberia.

The starting point of the women's movement was war fatigue, said Gbowee, a mother of six children. She grew tired of watching children die from hunger and "waking up every morning and not knowing whether a tomorrow was possible. You can't plan for the future." Along with thousands of other women from across Liberia, Gbowee wanted to dream of a better community. She decided it was time to stop the war and called together women of all faiths—Christian, Muslim, indigenous and others—from across Liberia to "step out," recognizing that Liberian women can play a critical role in peace building.

Gbowee's story is chronicled in the documentary *Pray the Devil Back to Hell.* She has just completed her memoir, *Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer, and Sex Changed a Nation at War* -- a book that examines "the power of women and the power of faith in getting you (out) from the darkest place in your life," she said.

For the full press release on Gbowee please visit www.elca.org.

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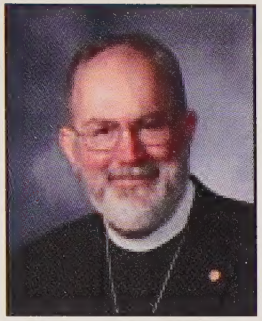
A Word From The Bishop



The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV

How can we plan for the future? We live in a time of transition and change. We do not know what is coming and we are still trying to recover from the changes that have already affected us. We are trying to hang on, not plan.

Having a vision that God is calling us to faithful discipleship is critical for us, our congregations and the synod. The years of "five year mission plans" may well be behind us in the increasingly changing world. Having strategies to inform our work and our decision making is increasingly essential.

Ten years ago Pastor Jan Nesse and I set our goals to start new worshipping communities and support the development of new rostered leaders. That continues to be our goal. In the process Pastor Nancy Winder, Candidacy, and Pastor Jerry Buss, Director of Evangelical Mission, have joined the staff to work on these directions. It informs our decision making when we know what we are trying to accomplish, especially in times of financial distress.

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly adopted a recommendation from the *Living Into the Future, Together* (LIFT) Task Force that encourages each congregation in the ELCA to develop a mission strategy by December 2012. For some congregations it will be easy to reshape current planning and identify mission strategy. For others this looks like more paperwork. It is my hope that the Synod Office will be a partner with you in developing your strategy. The goal is not the filing of papers with this office or churchwide. The goal is for each congregation to be clear about how God is using your congregation to give future

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and hope to your community and world.

As we have talked at the churchwide and synod expressions, the deadline of 2012 is a goal not an enforceable date. The process needs to get started and there needs to be a target. Think of the next year as that space to work on this visioning process. Where is God calling you? What does your community need that you can provide? If your congregation were to disappear tomorrow, what would your neighbors say is missing?

The hope is that every congregation will be able to verbalize its work in ways that invite its members to greater participation and that also invites others to join in the mission of Jesus taking place in each congregation. Expect the question, "What is your mission strategy or plan?" This is not to shame or criticize. It is to help us be clear in our response to the world around us and to speak and act in Christ's name.

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Deadline for copy for the December 2011 issue of Soundings is Wednesday, November 2.
Current and archived issues can be found on the synod's website.

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A Very Serious Problem

by Kari Lipke, Intern for Faith Action Network and St. John United, Seattle

On September 24 I attended the *Greening Your Congregation* event and listened to University of Washington professor Paul Johnson present the data on anthropogenic (human-created) climate change.

It is a bleak picture to be sure: Because of the effects our carbon dioxide and methane emissions have on the atmosphere, most of the Arctic ice will be gone by 2040, and global warming will accelerate tremendously once that occurs.

Sea levels will rise while a reduced snow pack will decrease the freshwater flow of rivers. Rainfall distribution will become more extreme, with wet areas getting even more wet and dry areas more dry. We will experience long and intense drought over many of our crop-producing lands worldwide, and at the same time population increases will continue to put pressure on food supplies in another way. There will be record heat waves and devastating storms. Species after species will go extinct. Human beings and other creatures will starve on the scale of a billion. Mass migration will destabilize whole societies.

There will be great pain and suffering. The process is in motion. We cannot prevent global warming, but only mitigate it, thereby (hopefully) reducing some of the above effects.

In the face of such a reality, Johnson cited this final statistic: Only 33% of Americans believe that anthropogenic global warming is "a very serious problem." While 58% believe it is a "serious problem," it is typically not until we are willing to add that extra adjective "very" to the phrase that we actually become motivated to work both personally and politically for change.

Editor's Note: The full article can be found at www.lutheransnw.org under Spotlight.

Byberg Preaching Workshop 2012

The Byberg Preaching Workshop for 2012 will be held from January 30 to February 1 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Issaquah.

The presenter is the Rev. Craig Satterlee and chaplain is the Rev. Susan Briehl.

Professor Satterlee received a B.A. from the University of Michigan, M.Div. and S.T.M. (pastoral care) from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, and M.A. and Ph.D. in homiletics and liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame.

Professor Satterlee is the author of seven books, serves as editor of *Preaching Helps* for Currents in Theology and Mission, and frequently contributes to both scholarly and ecclesiastical journals. Dr. Satterlee's scholarly interests include the relationship of preaching and areas of congregational life and mission, including liturgy, spirituality, stewardship, mission and leadership.

Cost for Active ELCA Clergy and Interns, $45; spouses and non ELCA Clergy $50. For more information visit www.bybergpreaching.org.

DVD Available

Storied Fire. Storied Water. Story Meal.

This 16-minute DVD, produced by Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle, presents the Easter Vigil as the primary expression of the Christian story that forms faith in the contemporary lives of a worshipping community.

With footage from 2008 and 2010 and interviews with baptismal candidates, the DVD inspires viewers with ideas to make the Vigil a child-friendly experience that offers baptismal renewal for the entire congregation. The DVD is available from Phinney Ridge Lutheran. A donation of $10 per DVD plus $3 for shipping is requested. Inquires may be sent to office@prlc.org or call 206-783-2350.

Candidacy Information Workshop

The Northwest Washington Synod Candidacy Committee invites you to a *Candidacy Information Workshop* from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, at St. John United Lutheran Church, 5517 Phinney Ave N in Seattle. Who should come?

- Persons discerning a call to public ministry in the ELCA, from High School age on up
- Current applicants and candidates
- All rostered leaders in the synod
- Leaders of congregations who have members in the candidacy process
- Anyone who would like to know more about candidacy in the ELCA and be supportive of this important ministry to form Lutheran leaders for the 21st century.

The day will begin with worship and include a variety of presentations on the various aspects of candidacy. There will be opportunity to talk with current leaders and candidates on the four rosters of the ELCA: Associate in Ministry, the Deaconess Community, Diaconal Ministry, and Ordained Ministry.

Lunch will be provided, and you will be invited to contribute as you wish to its cost. Registrations are encouraged. Email Pastor Nancy Winder, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, at candidacy@lutheransnw.org. List the name of your congregation and the number of people in your group. Questions? Email Pastor Winder, or phone her at 206-383-5670.

Job Opening

Part-time Parish Administrator at Magnolia, Seattle—Responsible for the management of the church office and providing a high level of administrative support to the pastor, staff, church council and committees. 1-3 years of office environment. Knowledge of Windows, Microsoft Office and Quick Books. Salary info on request. For more information email mlcelca@qwestoffice.net.

2012 Youth Gathering

Registration for the *2012 National Youth Gathering* in New Orleans opened October 9 with nearly 23,000 registering the first day!

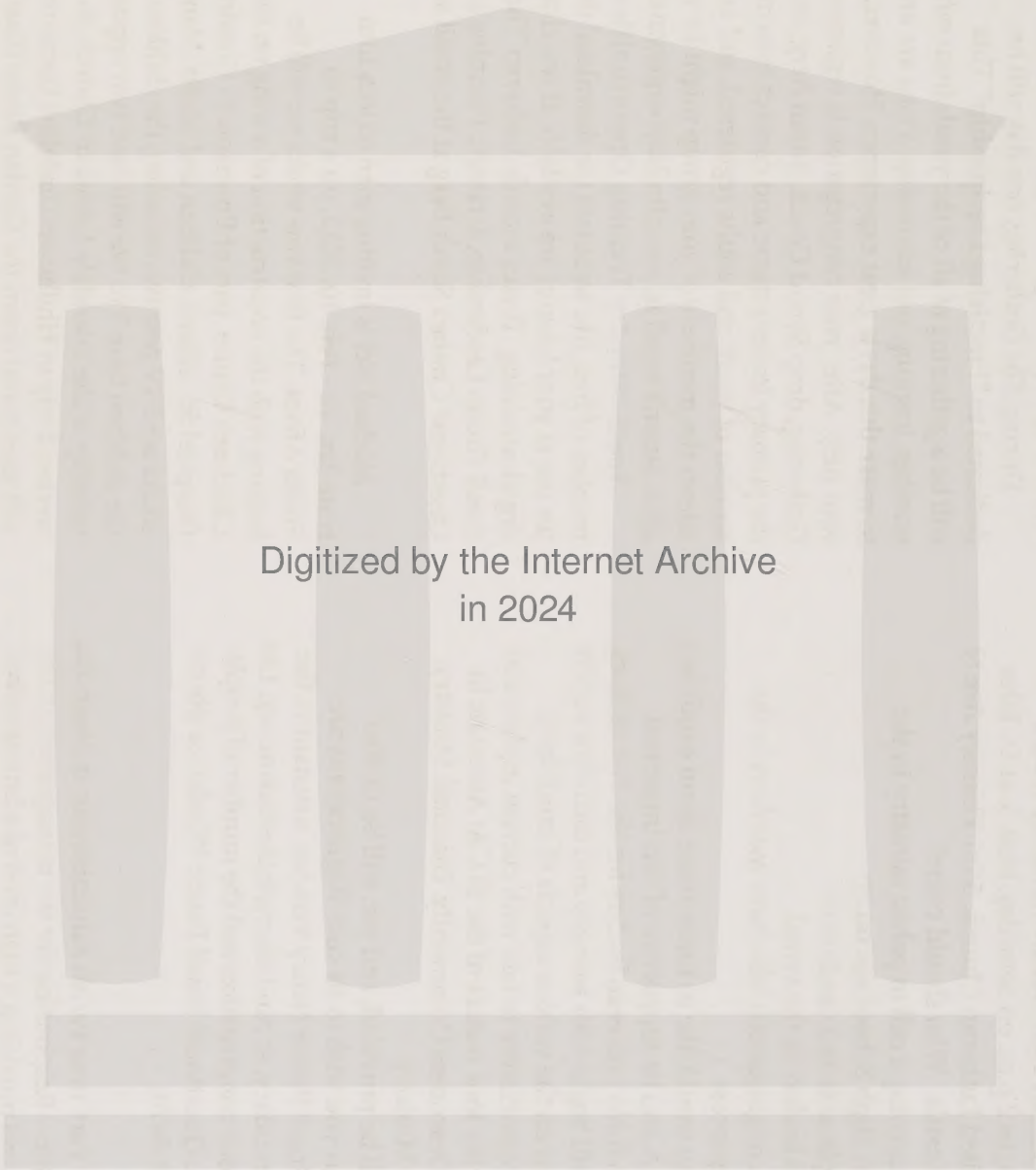
During *The Gathering*, one day will be dedicated to "Practicing Discipleship." This will be a gathering of all of the youth from our synod for worship, learning and fellowship. Plans are underway to make this day a great experience. However, we need your help. After your congregation is registered for *The Gathering*, drop Synod Coach, Susan Berg, an email with the primary leader's name and contact information, the number of youth and adults registered, and any special talents the members of your group might be willing to offer. Susan's email is: susanlindsayberg@gmail.com.

Youth Ministry Training Opportunities—A number of free, live webinars (or download them later for use at your leisure) are available at ww.elcaymnet.org/elcatraining. Topics include Lutheran Theology, Small Group Leadership, Strategic Planning and more. Questions? Contact Susan Berg at the email address above.

An Invitation

From Michael Nel

Michael Nel is inviting men to join him from Jan. 12 - Feb. 10, 2012, on a trip to South Africa. The first two weeks we will be helping with the construction of a wing on the Siyathemba Children's Centre, part of Emmanuel's Comfort Home (hospice) for infants, children and adults. Many of the adults are HIV positive, including the children. Most of the children have TB. We will have two opportunities to worship at the Edendale Lutheran Church, as well as a weekend trip to Hlulhuwe-Umfolozi Game reserve. We will then travel down the Garden Route (East Coast of South Africa) to Cape Town where we will do some sight-seeing. Cost appears to be between $5000 and $5500. If interested contact the Rev. Dr. Michael J. Nel, D.Th. at 604-882-4774 or mnel@shaw.ca.



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Collecting Shoes

Kent Lutheran in Kent is collecting used shoes to recycle and help fund their community restoration project in South Sudan. They will be collecting shoes until late November.

Members are working with a for-profit organization (ReRun Shoes) which supports micro-business in West Africa. If the congregation raises a cargo container full of shoes, ReRun will pay Kent Lutheran $12,000.

This is a win-win-win-win situation. People get jobs in West Africa repairing and re-selling shoes, people get affordable shoes in West Africa protecting them from disease and parasites, and Kent Lutheran gets the funds needed for their water project in South Sudan, and finally, shoes are diverted from the waste stream.

How many shoes do we need? **Fifteen tons of shoes.**

To learn more about this project or to find out where you can drop off shoes, visit Kent Lutheran's blog at http://klcsouthsudan.blogspot.com/p/shoe-drive.html.

Story Time

At Luther's Table

Relax over a hot latte or tasty lunch, while your children participate in fun, educational and free activities.

From pirates and raccoons, to tap shoes, Halloween, and everything in between, we explore a different surprise theme with songs, stories, crafts, and snacks.

Story Time takes place on the last Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m, and is led by children's ministry coordinator, Nicole VanderMeulen, and Mission Developer, Pastor Gretchen Mertes.

All are welcome, but programming is planned for children ages 3-6. Mark your calendar now for October 26. Luther's Table, is located at 419 S. 2nd St. in Renton.

Celebrate Campus Ministry On Oct. 30

We invite you to celebrate Campus Ministry Sunday on October 30. The day is a celebration of the two campus ministry sites in the Synod - the University of Washington in Seattle and Western Washington University in Bellingham. October 30th is a time to highlight this extension of our ministry with young adults, workers, and faculty involved in higher education.

October 30th is a natural day to recognize campus ministry. Martin Luther, credited with posting the 95 theses on the church door of the castle church in Wittenberg in 1517, was a Professor of Biblical Theology at the University of Wittenberg. He also became the first campus pastor. He had University students staying with him at his home after 1525 and discussed issues of the day and theology with students at dinner.

Take time on the 30th to reflect on this vital mission of the church. Pray and consider how you might help with campus ministry.

One important contribution is to help with financial challenges facing campus ministry. Online donations can be made at www.uwlutherans.com.

Another Way To Help

Another important contribution is to help with serving meals once a month at Covenant House at the University of Washington. Meals are served on Wednesday evening and a special dinner is served on Thursday evening as we welcome Rev. Zhenchaun Liu and students and visiting faculty from China.

Please consider how you might help campus ministry. Your gifts will help with current members and future leaders of the church.

Here 'n There

■ **Lutheran Campus Ministry at WWU** has sold the Shalom Center and expects the sale to close this week. You can contact Pr Chris Berry of LCM-WWU by phone at 360-220-5466. Please send mail to the ministry at their temporary mailing address: Lutheran Campus Ministry at WWU, PO Box 2143, Bellingham WA 98227-2143.

- Did you know that the average American plans to spend $700 on Christmas gifts this year? Challenge your congregation to rethink the tradition of gift-giving by participating in an **ELCA Good Gifts Fair.** Visit the synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on the link under Spotlight.
- Members at First Lutheran in Bothell are helping Operation Nightwatch and Compass Housing Alliance by providing new socks for the homeless men and women in their community. Homeless feet get sore from all the walking and often the socks are wet and falling apart.
- The Open Door Ministry Gala Dinner and Auction will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Brockey Center, South Seattle Community College. Cost is $65 per person. For more information or to make reservations contact Darlene Atik at darleenatick@comcast.net.
- For nearly three years members of Bethlehem in Marysville have volunteered at the Marysville Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. This ministry provides a hot meal, fellowship and worship every Wednesday evening. Bethlehem members cook the meals and then transport and serve the food at the Veteran's Auxiliary Building.
- In September the youth group at Our Redeemer's in Seattle raised $2,111 with their Electronic Recycling Event. The money will be used for their mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

Within Our Family

We Continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

- **The Rev. Mary Bosell,** on disability
- **The Rev. John Ericksen (ret.)** and his wife, Marita
- **The Rev. Jami Fecher,** pastor at Gift of Grace in Seattle
- **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda
- **The Rev. Donna Reilly Williams (ret.)**
- **The Rev. Paul Wuest (ret.)**

We Pray For:

- **The family of the Rev. Jerry Lund (ret.)** who died on September 29 with his wife, Maryann, and family gathered around him. A memorial service was held on October 8 at Immanuel in Seattle. The family of Jerry Lund has named three recipients of memorials that were close to Jerry's heart. The first creates a new opportunity in Northwest Washington Synod to help First Call Leaders reduce the debt they incurred while attending seminary. The other two recipients are Immanuel in Seattle and Holden Village. (Northwest Washington Synod - First Call Debt Reduction, 5519 Phinney Ave North, Seattle WA 98103; Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1215 Thomas Street, Seattle WA 98109; Holden Village, HC 0 Box 2, Chelan WA 98816.) Cards may be sent to: Maryann Lund, 9001 - 45th Place W, Mukilteo, WA 98275-3435.
- **The family of the Rev. Norm Orth (ret.)** died on September 28. He was 89 years old and is survived by his wife Maizie and three children. The memorial service was held on October 9 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows, Tacoma. Cards may be sent to: Maizie Orth, 301 N Highlands Parkway Apt 4-41, Tacoma WA 98406.
- **Mikal Kindem, brother of the Rev. Erik Kindem,**

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Within Our Family

pastor at Peace in Seattle. Mikal's wife Diane (Elverson) Kindem died suddenly in late September. A memorial service was held on October 6 in Woodbury, Minn.Cards may be sent to: Pastor Erik Kindem, Peace Lutheran Church, 8316 - 39th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98136-2351.

- ✞ **The family of Nelma Kananen, mother of Marv Kananen,** who died on October 10 at the age of 97. Marv and Jean Wahlstrom have recently returned from many years as missionaries in Africa. Marv and Jean have travelled to the Detroit area to be with Marv's family. Cards may be sent to Marv Kananen and Jean Wahlstrom, c/o Kay Kananen, 47798 Vistas Circle South, Canton, MI 48188-1489.
- ✞ **The family of Marvel Gibbs, grandmother of the Rev. Julie Blum,** pastor at Maple Leaf in Seattle, and great grandmother to Zoe, died on October 12 at age 92. Julie and Zoe traveled to Spokane for a memorial service on Tuesday, October 18. Cards can be sent to: Pastor Julie Blum, Maple Leaf Lutheran Church, 10005 - 32nd Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125-7801.

Prayers of Celebration

- ✞ **Larry Johnson, Associate in Ministry and former Synod Vice President,** reports that his surgery for a second knee replacement went well and he expects to be home within the next few days. Cards may be sent to: Larry and Louise Johnson, PO Box 1326, Allyn WA 98524-1326.
- ✞ **Estelle Morley, Associate in Ministry (ret.)** celebrates the birth of her granddaughter Makenzie Madison Morley born on September 15 to parents David Morley and Amy Best-Morley. Cards may be sent to:4316 Stonebridge Way #20, Lynnwood WA 98037.

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Lydia Wittman Grebe	Lutheran Church of St. Mark, Glastonbury, Conn	10/1/2011
Krista Mendoza	Bethany Lutheran, Elmira NY	10/15/2011
Installations		
Kristine Anderson Ostrem	Faith, Seattle	9/18/2011
Joanne E Engquist	Gethsemane, Seattle	10/30/2011
Joseph Li	Bethel Chinese, Seattle	9/18/2011
Ordinations		
Krista Mendoza	Maple Leaf, Seattle	10/15/2011
Transfers In/Out Of Synod		
Shannon Anderson	To Metro DC Synod	7/1/2011
Paula Burchill	To Southwestern Washington Synod	9/1/2011
Wesley Howell	To Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod	9/1/2011
Drahomir Oslik	To Lower Susquehanna Synod	10/1/2011
Lydia Wittman Grebe	To New England Synod	10/1/2011

Youth Serve

Paint, rake, sort, pray! Recently youth and adults from across the Synod came together for Youth Serve. The group spent Friday night at Peace Lutheran in West Seattle playing games and discussing service. Saturday morning after a pancake breakfast and being joined by others, everyone headed to the Compass Housing Alliance Crown Hill location where they spent the day painting bathrooms, sorting storage rooms, and doing yard work. They gathered again at Peace for a time of reflection on the day and how it is related to God's love. The Synod Children Youth and Family committee hosted the event and hope to do it again.

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

You can check for the most recent updates on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org/leadership/transitions.

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	I	Supply
Bellevue, Grace	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Bellingham, Our Saviour's	PR	C	Supply
Burien, Glendale	PR	TR	Red Burchfield, Interim
Custer, Zion	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Everett, Faith	PR	TR	Michael Ross, Interim
Issaquah, Shepherd of the Hills	PR	TR	Dick Christianson, Interim
Maple Valley, Shepherd of the Valley	PR	TR	Phil Reitz, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir-Conway	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	TR	Supply
Point Roberts, Trinity Community	PR	TR	Supply
Seattle, Bethany	PR	TR	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Seattle, Magnolia	PR	P	Doug Stensby, Interim
Shoreline, Bethel	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply
Woodinville, Wooden Cross	PR	TR	Paul Anderson, Interim

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process